Grant Writing: Opportunities, Needs and Strategies
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Grants - An Outcome Perspective: Looking Back from a Scientific Publication to Grant Funding - Lessons to Be Learned

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Outline

1. The project must be doable (facts to consider)
    1.1. Personal time
        1.1.1. Design of the project
        1.1.2. Grant submission
        1.1.3. Grant revision
        1.1.4. Supervision/execution of the project
    1.2. Equipment/laboratory access
        1.2.1. That your institution has a certain lab or piece of equipment does not assure access
            1.2.1.1.1. Political land mines
            1.2.1.1.2. Physical obstacles (distance)
            1.2.1.1.3. Are other investigators in your institution doing work with some similarity in structure to that you propose, or were there factors that prevented such research
    1.3. Experimental subjects approval
        1.3.1. IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) – animal research
        1.3.2. IRB (Institutional Review Board) – human subjects
    1.4. Ancillary support
        1.4.1. Laboratory personnel
        1.4.2. Animal technician (if an IACUC study)
        1.4.3. Nursing support (if an IRB study)
        1.4.4. Equipment operation (MR technologist, for example)
        1.4.5. Statistician
    1.5. Focus on what your institution does best
        1.5.1. Scientific expertise
        1.5.2. Available resources (or patients, if the project is clinical)
2. The time frame must be realistic
    2.1. Those judging the application will likely know if your time frame is realistic or not, and if it is not you will not receive funding
    2.2. If you do not meet your time line, then the chances of future funding are markedly lower
3. Pick the appropriate funding source
    3.1. NIH (public)
    3.2. Industry (private)
4. Know what the funding source is looking for
    4.1. What is the general orientation of your project?
        4.1.1. Technique
        4.1.2. Disease
        4.1.3. Equipment
        4.1.4. Pharmaceutical
5. The odds favor those with experience in the specific area
    5.1. Prior publication in the area demonstrates expertise and a track record
    5.2. Preliminary results support feasibility, demonstrate interest and commitment
6. The proposed project/subject should represent a burning desire

6.1. Funding will only enable the project, not fully support it or assure completion
6.2. The burning desire
    6.2.1. Will carry you through the application process
    6.2.2. Will ensure completion of the project
    6.2.3. Will lead to quality
7. Use the resources around you
    7.1. Mentors
    7.2. Equipment
        7.2.1. Design the project to use that which you have available, focusing on unique and/or cutting edge equipment
    7.3. Ancillary laboratories/investigators
        7.3.1. Do not attempt a project that will require expertise that your institution does not have
8. Focus, focus, focus